Sex pest priest banished

THE ONLY PICTURE

AFRICA ON TOP OF THE WORLD

TOP CLASS: This picture of Sibusiso Vilane and team leader Robert Anderson on the summit of Mount Everest was shot by fellow climber David Hamilton on Monday morning. It was the last frame on the roll of film and is the only record of Vilane at the top. Four other cameras taken to the summit froze and could not be used. Hamilton’s roll of film only reached Base Camp on Wednesday. From there it took two helicopter flights to get it to Kathmandu, where Hamilton spent four hours searching for a film-processing laboratory. The image was then transmitted digitally to the Sunday Times in Johannesburg on Friday morning.

Picture: DAVID HAMILTON

SA’s double Everest triumph

MICHAEL LESTER: London
NICOLI PAGMACHE: Johannesburg

As the world celebrated the 50th anniversary of the conquest of Mount Everest this week two South Africans were on top of the world.

Sibusiso Vilane, a go-getter with joint South African and Swazi nationality, and Maynardville Johannesbouw filmmaker team. Vilane added their names to the exclusive list of people who have gone toe-to-toe with the world’s highest mountain — and won.

Yesterday, Vilane, 32 — who became the first black person to reach the top of the 8,848m peak — was still smiling as he was driven down at London’s Heathrow Airport from Kathmandu by five Rolls-Royces.

Vilane — who had remained behind on Everest after the rest of his expedition abandoned their attempt — described it as one of the highlights of his life. His girlfriend, Joy Simmonds, told the Sunday Times that she had been with him on the summit.

Many of the climbers could contact their families from Base Camp but I could not, and having the Sunday Times there was a huge support. It was like having part of my family, and kept me in touch with what was going on at home — Vilane

MOUNTAIN MANE: Vilane

In fact, Vilane had a call from an American woman at Base Camp at about 5pm (SA time), who

had said Vilane had made it to the top of the world. "I told her it was a sacred place, an important place. At the top I fell on my knees for a second time. For that moment time stopped. It was all clear and still.

You could see forever, for miles and miles. There was not a cloud in sight. No buildings at all. Just this clear, white, snow-capped peaks stretching far away."

You know, you still can’t see the whole world but you can feel how the world really is. And you feel humble and very small before the grandeur of God."

It’s almost as if the mountain is alive and feeling you all along the way. All the way you have to give of your best — and then some. And it makes you realise you are not alone."

See Pages 6, 7 and 15

INSIDE

MAGAZINE
PROFILE
Kate Winslet talks about juggling her role as a mother with her latest movie role

PLUS
Guga Stryka is back. Next week. Don’t miss it

SPORT

An eye for beauty.